IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for collaborating on due diligence issues to affect efficient asset underwriting and process knowledge building within due diligence teams using a computer system coupled to a data repository, said method comprising the steps of:

accumulating knowledge from prior due diligence exercises including valuating assets in a portfolio individually and collectively by segmenting the portfolio of assets into three valuation portions and by:

underwriting each asset individually included within a first portion of the asset portfolio to calculate a value of each asset included within the first portion of the portfolio, wherein underwriting includes analyzing an asset in accordance with predetermined criteria, and determining a current purchase price for buying the asset and a confidence factor associated with the determined purchase price based on the analysis,

grouping and underwriting a sample of assets included within a second portion of the asset portfolio to calculate a value of each asset included within the second portion of the portfolio based on the underwritten sample assets, each sample asset having descriptive attributes common to at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion such that each sample asset represents at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion, and

using the computer to statistically infer a value for assets included within a third portion of the asset portfolio using an iterative process including grouping the assets included within the third portion of the portfolio into clusters using descriptive attributes of the assets included within the third portion, wherein the statistically inferring a value of assets included within the third portion is based on underwriting values and variances of the first and second portions of the portfolio,

wherein the portfolio of segmented assets includes assets included within the first portion having at least one of an original value that is larger than the original value of the assets included within the second and third portions, and a variance that is smaller than the variances of the assets included within the second and third portions;

storing the accumulated knowledge in the data repository;

accessing the stored, accumulated knowledge in the data repository from prior due diligence exercises;

conducting a current due diligence exercise;

applying the accumulated knowledge from past due diligence exercises to the current due diligence exercise; and

storing newly accumulated knowledge from the current due diligence exercise into the data repository of accumulated knowledge.

2. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing stored, accumulated knowledge in a repository further comprises the step of accessing a suite of at least one of business processes, computer systems, analytical tools, financial models, data manipulation tools, business process tools, methodologies and analytics.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing stored, accumulated knowledge in a repository further comprises the step of accessing a high level map and associated descriptions of the roles and responsibilities within the due diligence team such that team members can see who has functional responsibilities, how the team members as individuals fit into the due diligence team and who to contact for information.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of applying the accumulated knowledge from past due diligence exercises further comprises the step of accessing a due diligence project timeline with milestones and tasks arranged as at least one of

Gantt charts, PERT charts and text such that key deliverable timing is developed at the beginning of the due diligence project with inputs from due diligence team members.

5. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of accessing a project feedback mechanism including graphical indicators for tracking key due diligence deliverables including at least one of types and quantities of underwriting completed, total project budget and status of deliverables.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 5 wherein said step of accessing a project feedback mechanism further comprises the step of accessing a due diligence project calendar with notable local and global dates identified.

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of storing contact information of due diligence team members and collaborators including at least one of telephone numbers, e-mail address and postal address information.

8. (original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of storing a due diligence project to do list and status for items on the to do list.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of storing newly accumulated knowledge further comprises the step of creating a shared storage place for various due diligence functions to store project files and information such that team members and collaborators can access and retrieve the information.

10. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of storing newly accumulated knowledge further comprises the step of creating an information flow map that identifies sources and uses of information utilized to make due diligence decisions.

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing stored, accumulated knowledge further comprises the step of accessing historical best practices stored within the data repository from past due diligence exercises.

12. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of accessing stored, accumulated knowledge further comprises the step of accessing a database of relevant valuation information and facts associated with the due diligence to valuate a portfolio of assets.

13. (currently amended) A system for enabling a due diligence team collaborating on due diligence issues to obtain efficient knowledge building, said system comprising:

at least one computer;

at least one server configured to store accumulated knowledge in a data repository from prior due diligence exercises including data relating to valuating assets in a portfolio by:

segmenting the portfolio of assets into three valuation portions,

underwriting each asset included within a first portion of the asset portfolio to calculate a value of each asset included within the first portion of the portfolio, wherein underwriting includes analyzing an asset in accordance with predetermined criteria, and determining a current purchase price for buying the asset and a confidence factor associated with the determined purchase price based on the analysis,

grouping and underwriting a sample of assets included within a second portion of the asset portfolio to calculate a value of each asset included within the second portion of the portfolio based on the underwritten sample assets, each sample asset having descriptive attributes common to at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion such that each sample asset represents at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion, and

statistically inferring a value for each asset included within a third portion of the asset portfolio using an iterative process including grouping the assets included within the third portion of the portfolio into clusters <u>using descriptive attributes of the assets included within the third portion, wherein the statistically inferring a value</u>

of assets included within the third portion is based on underwriting values and variances of the first and second portions of the portfolio;

wherein the portfolio of segmented assets includes assets included within the first portion having at least one of an original value that is larger than the original value of the assets included within the second and third portions, and a variance that is smaller than the variances of the assets included within the second and third portions;

access the stored, accumulated knowledge in the data repository from prior due diligence exercises for a current due diligence exercise;

apply the accumulated knowledge from past due diligence exercises to the current due diligence exercise; and

store newly accumulated knowledge from the current due diligence exercise into the data repository of accumulated knowledge; and

a network connecting said at least one computer to said server.

14. (original) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with a suite of at least one of business processes, computer systems, analytical tools, financial models, data manipulation tools, business process tools, methodologies and analytics.

15. (original) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with a high level map and associated descriptions of the roles and responsibilities within the due diligence team such that team members can see who has functional responsibilities, how the team members as individuals fit into the due diligence team and who to contact for information.

16. (original) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with a due diligence project timeline with milestones and tasks arranged as at least one of Gantt charts, PERT charts and text to develop key deliverable timing with input from due diligence team members.

17. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with a project feedback mechanism including graphical indicators for tracking key due diligence deliverables including at least one of types and quantities of underwriting completed, financial risk and return metrics, total project budget and status of deliverables.

18. (original) A system according to Claim 17 wherein said server configured with a due diligence project calendar with notable local and global dates identified.

19. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with contact information of due diligence team members and collaborators including at least one of telephone numbers, e-mail address and postal address information.

20. (original) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with a due diligence project to do list and status for items on the to do list.

21. (original) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with a shared storage place for various due diligence functions to store project files and information such that team members and collaborators can access and retrieve the information.

22. (original) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with an information flow map that identifies sources and uses of information utilized to make due diligence decisions.

23. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with historical best practices generated from past due diligence exercises.

24. (original) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server configured with a database of relevant valuation information and facts associated with the due diligence to valuate a portfolio of assets.

25. (currently amended) A computer configured to provide a due diligence team collaborating on due diligence issues with efficient knowledge building, said computer programmed to:

accumulate knowledge from prior due diligence exercises including valuating assets in a portfolio individually by segmenting the portfolio of assets into three valuation portions and by:

underwriting each asset included within a first portion of the asset portfolio to calculate a value of each asset included within the first portion of the portfolio, wherein underwriting includes analyzing an asset in accordance with predetermined criteria, and determining a current purchase price for buying the asset and a confidence factor associated with the determined purchase price based on the analysis,

grouping and underwriting a sample of assets included within a second portion of the asset portfolio to calculate a value of each asset included within the second portion of the portfolio based on the underwritten sample assets, each sample asset having descriptive attributes common to at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion such that each sample asset represents at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion, and

statistically inferring a value and risk for each asset included within a third portion of the asset portfolio using an iterative process including grouping the assets included within the third portion of the portfolio into clusters <u>using descriptive attributes of the assets included within the third portion, wherein the statistically inferring is</u> based on underwriting values and variances of the first and second portions of the portfolio;

<u>wherein the portfolio of segmented assets includes assets included within the first portion having at least one of an original value that is larger than the original value of the assets included within the second and third portions, and a variance that is smaller than the variances of the assets included within the second and third portions;</u>

store the accumulated knowledge in a data repository;

access the stored, accumulated knowledge in the data repository from prior due diligence exercises;

conduct a current due diligence exercise;

apply the accumulated knowledge from past due diligence exercises to the current due diligence exercise; and

store newly accumulated knowledge from the current due diligence exercise into the data repository of accumulated knowledge.

26. (original) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with a suite of at least one of business processes, computer systems, analytical tools, financial models, data manipulation tools, business process tools, methodologies and analytics.

27. (original) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with a high level map and associated descriptions of the roles and responsibilities within the due diligence team such that team members can see who has functional responsibilities, how the team members as individuals fit into the due diligence team and who to contact for information.

28. (original) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with a due diligence project timeline with milestones and tasks arranged as at least one of Gantt charts, PERT charts and text to develop key deliverable timing with input from due diligence team members.

29. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with a project feedback mechanism including graphical indicators for tracking key due diligence deliverables including at least one of types and quantities of underwriting completed, total project budget and status of deliverables.

30. (original) A computer according to Claim 29 programmed with a due diligence project calendar with notable local and global dates identified.

31. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with contact information of due diligence team members and collaborators including at least one of telephone numbers, e-mail address and postal address information.

32. (original) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with a due diligence project to do list and status for items on the to do list.

33. (original) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with a shared storage place for various due diligence functions to store project files and information such that team members and collaborators can access and retrieve the information.

34. (original) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with an information flow map that identifies sources and uses of information utilized to make due diligence decisions.

35. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with historical best practices generated from past due diligence exercises.

36. (original) A computer according to Claim 25 programmed with a database of relevant valuation information and facts associated with the due diligence to valuate a portfolio of assets.

37. (currently amended) A method for collaborating on due diligence issues to affect efficient knowledge building within due diligence teams using a computer system coupled to a data repository, said method comprising the steps of:

accumulating knowledge from prior due diligence exercises including valuating assets in a portfolio individually by segmenting the portfolio of assets into three valuation portions and by:

fully underwriting each asset included within a first portion of the asset portfolio including underwriting in a full cash manner to generate a full value table, and underwriting in a partial cash manner to generate a partial value table, wherein underwriting includes analyzing an asset in accordance with predetermined criteria, and determining a current purchase price for buying the asset and a confidence factor associated with the determined purchase price based on the analysis,

grouping and underwriting a sample of assets included within a second portion of the asset portfolio to calculate a value of each asset included within the second portion of the portfolio based on the underwritten sample assets, each sample asset having descriptive attributes common to at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion such that each sample asset represents at least one non-sample asset included within the second portion, and

using the computer to statistically infer a value for each asset included within a third portion of the asset portfolio using an iterative process including grouping the assets included within the third portion of the portfolio into clusters using descriptive attributes of the assets included within the third portion, wherein the statistically inferring a value of assets included within the third portion is based on underwriting values and variances of the first and second portions of the portfolio;

wherein the portfolio of segmented assets includes assets included within the first portion having at least one of an original value that is larger than the original value of the assets included within the second and third portions, and a variance that is smaller than the variances of the assets included within the second and third portions;

storing the accumulated knowledge in the data repository;

accessing the stored, accumulated knowledge in the data repository from prior due diligence exercises;

conducting a current due diligence exercise;

applying the accumulated knowledge from past due diligence exercises to the current due diligence exercise; and

storing newly accumulated knowledge from the current due diligence exercise into the data repository of accumulated knowledge.